

CHAPTER 14 REGISTRATION OF ACUPUNCTURISTS

653—14.1(148E) Purpose. The registration of acupuncturists is established to ensure that practitioners are qualified to provide Iowans with safe and healthful care. The provisions of Iowa Code chapters 147, 148E and 272C authorize the board of medical examiners to establish examination requirements for registration; evaluate the credentials of applicants for registration (147.2, 148E.3); grant certificates of registration to qualified applicants (148E.2); institute continuing education requirements (272C.2); investigate complaints and reports alleging registrants violated statutes and rules governing the practice of acupuncture (147.55, 148E.6); and discipline registrants found guilty of infractions as provided in state law and board rules (147.55, 148E.6).

653—14.2(148E) Scope. In accordance with Iowa Code section 148E.8, the following rules govern those persons engaged in the practice of acupuncture not otherwise licensed by the state to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathy, osteopathic medicine and surgery, chiropractic, podiatry, or dentistry.

653—14.3(148E) Definitions.

“*AAAOM*” is the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

“*Acupuncture*” is promoting, maintaining, or restoring health based on traditional oriental medical concepts of treating specific areas of the human body, known as acupuncture points or meridians, by performing any of the following practices:

1. Inserting acupuncture needles.
2. Moxibustion.
3. Applying manual, conductive thermal, or electrical stimulation through the use of acupuncture needles or any other secondary therapeutic technique, except for the use of electromagnetic or ultrasound energy sources.

“*Applicant*” is a person not otherwise authorized to practice acupuncture under Iowa Code section 148E.8 who applies to the board for a certificate of registration.

“*Board*” is the board of medical examiners established in Iowa Code chapter 147.

“*CCAOM*” is the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

“*Certificate of registration*” is a certificate issued by the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 148E.3.

“*Certified*” is a person deemed qualified to practice acupuncture by the NCCA by passing the written, practical examination of point location skills (PEPLS) and clean needle technique (CNT) portions of the NCCA acupuncture examination.

“*Committee*” is the allied health committee of the board with oversight responsibility for administration of the registration of acupuncturists.

“*Department*” is the Iowa department of public health.

“*Disclosure sheet*” is the written information registered acupuncturists must provide to patients on initial contact.

“*Disposable needles*” means presterilized needles that are discarded after initial use pursuant to Iowa Code section 148E.5.

“*English proficiency*” is sufficient knowledge of the English language as evidenced by achieving a passing score on one of the following examinations:

1. TOEFL is the Test of English as a Foreign Language administered by the Educational Testing Service.

2. TOEIC is the Test of English for International Communication administered by the Educational Testing Service.

3. TSE is the Test of Spoken English administered by the Educational Testing Service.

“*Medical evaluator*” is a person licensed by the state to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathy, osteopathic medicine and surgery, chiropractic, podiatry, or dentistry who evaluates a patient’s condition and makes a written referral to the registered acupuncturist within one year of the initial acupuncture treatment.

“*NCCA*” is the National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists.

“*Registered acupuncturist*” or “*registrant*” is a person holding a certificate of registration to practice acupuncture granted by the board under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 148E.

653—14.4(147,148E) Application requirements.

14.4(1) *Applicant qualifications.* To apply for a certificate of registration to practice acupuncture, an applicant shall:

a. Submit the completed application form provided by the board, including required credentials and documents; and

b. Pay a nonrefundable initial application fee of \$300.

14.4(2) *Contents of the application form.* Each applicant shall submit the following information on the application form provided by the board:

a. The applicant’s name, date and place of birth, and home address, mailing address and principal business address;

b. A photograph of the applicant suitable for positive identification;

c. The other jurisdictions in the United States or other nations or territories in which the applicant is authorized to practice acupuncture, including license, certificate of registration or certification numbers, date of issuance, and an explanation indicating the basis upon which authorization to practice acupuncture was received;

d. Full disclosure of the applicant’s involvement in civil litigation related to the practice of acupuncture in any jurisdiction of the United States, other nations or territories;

e. Full disclosure of any disciplinary action taken against the applicant by, but not limited to, a regulatory authority, educational institution, or health facility in any jurisdiction of the United States, other nations or territories;

f. A certified statement indicating the results of any acupuncture examination the applicant has taken in any jurisdiction of the United States, other nations or territories;

g. A statement of the applicant’s physical and mental health, including full disclosure and a written explanation of any dysfunction or impairment which may affect the ability of the applicant to engage in the practice of acupuncture and provide patients with safe and healthful care;

h. A description of the applicant’s clinical acupuncture training, work experience and, where applicable, supporting documentation;

i. An official transcript sent directly from the institution of higher education or acupuncture school attended by the applicant and, if necessary, an English translation of the official transcript; and

j. Proof of the applicant’s proficiency in the English language, when deemed appropriate by the board or committee.

14.4(3) *Disclosure sheet.* Pursuant to Iowa Code section 148E.4, applicants shall also provide a copy of the disclosure sheet to be given to each patient that includes the following information:

- a.* The name, business address and business telephone number of the acupuncturist;
- b.* A fee schedule;
- c.* A listing of the acupuncturist's education, experience, degrees, certificates, or other credentials related to acupuncture awarded by professional acupuncture organizations, the length of time required to obtain degrees or credentials, and experience;
- d.* A statement indicating any license, certificate, or registration in a health care occupation which was revoked by any local, state, or national health care agency;
- e.* A statement that the acupuncturist is complying with rules adopted by the department or the board, including a statement that only presterilized, disposable needles are used by the acupuncturist; and
- f.* A statement that the practice of acupuncture is regulated by the department.

14.4(4) *Application cycle.* Applications for initial certificate of registration shall be open for 120 days from the date the application form is received in the board's office.

a. After the 120 days, applicants shall update credentials and submit a nonrefundable reactivation of application fee of \$100 unless granted an extension in writing by the committee or the board. The period for requesting reactivation is limited to one year (365 days) from the date the application form is received by the board.

b. Once the reactivation period is expired, applicants must reapply and submit a new, nonrefundable initial application fee of \$300.

14.4(5) *Applicant responsibilities.* An applicant for certificate of registration to practice acupuncture bears full responsibility for each of the following:

a. Paying all fees charged by regulatory authorities, national testing or credentialing organizations, health facilities, and educational institutions providing the information specified in 14.4(2);

b. Reimbursing the board for any reasonable costs associated with handling incomplete or improperly prepared applications;

c. Providing accurate, up-to-date, and truthful information on the application form including, but not limited to, that specified under 14.4(2) and 14.4(3) related to prior professional experience, education, training, examination scores, and disciplinary history; and

d. Submitting English translations of documents in foreign languages bearing the affidavit of the translator certifying that the translation is a true and complete translation of the foreign language original. The applicant shall bear the expense of the translation.

14.4(6) *Grounds for denial of application.* The board, on the recommendation of the committee, may deny an application for registration for any of the following reasons:

a. Failure to meet the requirements for registration specified in rule 653—14.5(147,148E) as authorized by Iowa Code section 148E.3; or

b. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.4, upon any of the grounds for which registration may be revoked or suspended as specified in Iowa Code sections 147.55 and 148E.6.

653—14.5(147,148E) Eligibility for a certificate of registration.

14.5(1) *Eligibility requirements.* To be registered and issued a certificate of registration to practice acupuncture by the board, a person shall meet all of the following requirements:

a. Fulfill all the application requirements, as specified in 14.4(147,148E).
b. Hold and provide documented evidence of NCCA certification by examination based upon a passing score on the following components of the NCCA written and practical acupuncture examination:

(1) Comprehensive written examination including the acupuncture theory and clean needle technique (CNT) portions; and

(2) Point location practical examination (PEPLS).

c. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the English language to understand and be understood by patients, medical evaluators, and board and committee members.

(1) An applicant who passed the NCCA written and practical examination components in English may be presumed to have sufficient proficiency in English.

(2) The board may, at the recommendation of the allied health committee, choose any of the following examinations to test the English proficiency of any other applicant: the TOEFL, TOEIC, or TSE administered by the Educational Testing Service.

d. Successfully complete and provide documented evidence of:

(1) A minimum of 60 semester hours of postsecondary education with at least 30 semester hours from an accredited institution of higher education other than acupuncture school. Of the 60 semester hours, 12 shall be in the biosciences. Acceptable bioscience courses are those covering human anatomy, physiology, and general or advanced biology; and

(2) A minimum of two years of education and training in acupuncture theory and practice from an acupuncture school accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine or approved by the board.

14.5(2) *Avenues for eligibility deemed unacceptable.* The board shall not deem a person eligible for registration to practice acupuncture under this rule based upon the following:

a. NCCA certification through credentials documentation review; and

b. Reciprocal agreements between this state and any other state or national authority pursuant to Iowa Code sections 147.46 and 147.47.

653—14.6(147,148E) Disclosure of information to patients.

14.6(1) *Display of certificate.* Registered acupuncturists shall display the certificate of registration issued by the board in a conspicuous place in their primary place of business.

14.6(2) *Approval of the disclosure sheet and time limit for revisions.* Pursuant to Iowa Code section 148E.4, upon issuing a certificate of registration, the board shall provide notification to the registrant of the approval or rejection of the disclosure sheet to be provided to patients on initial contact submitted subsequent to 14.4(3).

a. The board shall provide the registrant with a written statement explaining the reasons for rejecting the disclosure sheet submitted and indicating the necessary amendments or revisions.

b. Any revisions in the information required in 14.4(3) shall be made by the registrant in the mandatory disclosure sheet within five days of the date of notification by the board.

14.6(3) *Distribution and retention of disclosure sheet.* The registrant shall distribute the disclosure sheet on initial contact with patients and retain a copy, signed and dated by the patient, for a period of at least three years after termination of the treatment.

653—14.7(147,148E,272C) Annual renewal of registration required. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 148E.2, registration is renewed annually for a fee of \$150 with documented evidence that the registrant has completed the 15 hours of continuing education required by the board.

14.7(1) Expiration date. Certificates of registration to practice acupuncture shall expire annually on the first day of the birth month of registrant and may be renewed by the board without examination upon written request.

14.7(2) Prorated fees. The renewal fee for a certificate of registration issued during a calendar year shall be prorated on a monthly basis according to the date of issue and the registrant's month and year of birth.

14.7(3) Renewal requirements and penalties for late renewal. Each registrant shall be sent a renewal notice at least 60 days prior to the expiration date.

a. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.10, application for renewal shall be made in writing to the board accompanied by the required fee at least 30 days prior to the expiration date.

b. Every renewal shall be displayed in connection with the original certificate of registration.

c. A penalty of \$50 per calendar month shall be assessed by the board after the expiration date for failure to renew in a timely manner.

14.7(4) Lapsed registration. Failure of a registrant to renew within three months of the expiration date will result in invalidation of the certificate of registration and lapsed registration. Registrants are prohibited from engaging in the practice of acupuncture once registration is lapsed.

653—14.8(147,272C) Reinstatement of lapsed registration. Application for reinstatement of lapsed registration does not preclude the board from taking disciplinary actions otherwise authorized in Iowa Code section 147.55 or 148E.6.

14.8(1) Reinstatement requirements. Registrants who allow their registration to lapse by failing to renew may apply for reinstatement of registration. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.11, applicants for reinstatement shall:

a. Submit a completed application for reinstatement of registration to practice acupuncture;

b. Pay all penalties and delinquent renewal fees determined by the board in addition to a reinstatement fee of \$150; and

c. Provide documented evidence of successful completion of the required number of continuing education course hours.

14.8(2) Reinstatement restrictions. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.3(2)“d,” the allied health committee may require a registrant who fails to renew for a period of three years from the expiration date to meet any or all of the following requirements prior to reinstatement of lapsed registration:

a. Submit documented evidence of NCCA recertification and retake and pass any or all components of the NCCA examination including the NCCA comprehensive written acupuncture examination and PEPLS practical examination;

b. Provide a written statement explaining the reasons for failing to renew;

c. Successfully complete continuing education or retraining programs in areas directly related to the safe and healthful practice of acupuncture deemed appropriate by the board or committee;

d. Appear before the committee or board for an interview.

653—14.9(272C) Continuing education requirements—course approval. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.2, a person registered and issued a certificate of registration to practice acupuncture shall complete 15 hours of continuing education to qualify for registration renewal. Continuing education courses shall be certified by the AAAOM, a national organization representing state authorities that regulate acupuncturists, a professional health care association, or a medical education institution deemed appropriate by the committee or board.

653—14.10(148E) Evaluation and referral by medical evaluator required. A registrant shall not commence acupuncture treatment on a patient unless a medical evaluator licensed to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathy, osteopathic medicine and surgery, chiropractic, podiatry, or dentistry has performed a medical evaluation of the patient and referred the patient to the registrant as specified in this rule. The medical evaluation and referral for acupuncture treatment are restricted to areas within the licensed evaluator's scope of practice.

14.10(1) Medical evaluation requirements. The medical evaluation shall be conducted within 90 days of the patient's initial contact with the registrant for acupuncture treatment and shall include:

- a. A diagnostic examination of the patient; and
- b. An assessment of the patient's medical history with specific reference to any ailment or condition within the medical evaluator's scope of practice.

14.10(2) Medical evaluator's responsibilities to the patient. Upon fulfilling the evaluation requirements, the medical evaluator shall advise the patient of the following:

- a. The findings of the medical evaluation;
- b. The specific ailment or condition to be treated by acupuncture and any alternative courses of treatment;
- c. Any restrictions on the course of acupuncture treatment the patient's condition requires as a matter of sound medical practice; and
- d. If acupuncture treatment is indicated, the patient is to consult with the medical evaluator if the ailment or condition worsens or changes unexpectedly or if a new ailment or condition develops during the course of acupuncture treatment.

14.10(3) Referral for acupuncture treatment requirements. Within 90 days of the date of the medical evaluation and before initial acupuncture treatment commences, the medical evaluator shall provide the registrant with a written referral that includes the following:

- a. The findings of the medical evaluation;
- b. The specific ailment or condition within the medical evaluator's scope of practice to be treated by acupuncture;
- c. Any restrictions on the course of acupuncture treatment the patient's condition requires as a matter of sound medical practice; and
- d. Notice to the registrant to promptly consult with the medical evaluator making the referral if the ailment or condition identified for acupuncture treatment worsens or changes unexpectedly or if a new ailment or condition develops during the course of acupuncture treatment. If the patient develops a condition or ailment outside the medical evaluator's scope of practice, the medical evaluator shall refer the patient to the appropriate professional licensed to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathy, osteopathic medicine and surgery, chiropractic, podiatry, or dentistry.

14.10(4) *Registrant's restrictions and obligations to the patient.* The registrant shall comply with the following:

- a. The scope of acupuncture treatment shall be limited to the condition or ailment in the medical evaluator's scope of practice identified in the written referral as specified in paragraph 14.10(3) "b."
- b. The registrant shall strictly comply with any conditions or restrictions placed on the course of acupuncture treatment specified by the medical evaluator in the referral in accordance with paragraph 14.10(3) "c."
- c. The registrant shall promptly consult with the medical evaluator making the referral if the ailment or condition identified for acupuncture treatment worsens or changes unexpectedly or if a new ailment or condition develops during the course of acupuncture treatment. The registrant shall cease performing acupuncture treatment until the patient's condition is reexamined and reassessed by a medical evaluator in accordance with the requirements of this subrule.
- d. The registrant shall maintain the medical evaluator's written referral for initial acupuncture treatment as part of the patient's permanent record.

653—14.11(147,148E,272C) General provisions.

14.11(1) *Use and disposal of needles.* A registrant shall use only presterilized, disposable needles and shall provide for the disposal of used needles in accordance with the requirements of the department.

14.11(2) *Standard of care.* A registrant shall be held to the same standard of care as persons licensed to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathy, and osteopathic medicine and surgery. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.3, any error or omission, unreasonable lack of skill, or failure to maintain a reasonable standard of care in the practice of acupuncture constitutes malpractice and is grounds for the revocation or suspension of registration and the certificate of registration to practice acupuncture in this state.

14.11(3) *Title.* An acupuncturist registered under this title may use the words "registered acupuncturist" or "R.A." to connote professional standing after the registrant's name in accordance with Iowa Code section 147.74(18).

14.11(4) *Change of residence.* In accordance with Iowa Code section 147.9, registrants shall notify the board of changes in residence and place of practice within 14 days of moving.

14.11(5) *Delegation of responsibilities prohibited.* The registrant shall perform all aspects of acupuncture treatment on a patient. Delegation of responsibility for acupuncture treatment is strictly prohibited.

653—14.12(147,148E,272C) General disciplinary provisions. The board of medical examiners is authorized to take disciplinary action against any registrant who violates the provisions set forth in state law and administrative rules pertaining to the safe and healthful practice of acupuncture.

14.12(1) *Methods of discipline.* The board may impose any of the following disciplinary sanctions:

- a. Revocation of registration;
- b. Suspension of registration until further order of the board;
- c. Nonrenewal of registration;
- d. Restrict permanently or temporarily the performance of specific procedures, methods, acts or techniques;

- e. Probation;
- f. Additional or remedial education or training;
- g. Reexamination;
- h. Medical or physical evaluation, or alcohol or drug screening within a specific time frame at a facility or by a practitioner of the board's choice;
- i. Civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000;
- j. Citations and warnings as necessary; and
- k. Other sanctions allowed by law as deemed appropriate.

14.12(2) *Discretion of the board.* The board may consider the following factors when determining the nature and severity of the disciplinary sanction to be imposed:

- a. The relative seriousness of the violation as it relates to assuring the citizens of Iowa a high standard of professional care.
- b. The facts of the particular violation.
- c. Any extenuating circumstances or other countervailing considerations.
- d. Number of prior violations or complaints.
- e. Seriousness of prior violations or complaints.
- f. Whether remedial action has been taken.
- g. Such other factors as may reflect upon the competency, ethical standards and professional conduct of the registrant.

653—14.13(147,148E,272C) *Grounds for discipline.* The board may impose any of the disciplinary sanctions set forth in 14.12(1) upon determining that a registrant is guilty of any of the following acts or offenses:

14.13(1) *Fraud in procuring registration.* Fraud in procuring registration is the deliberate distortion of facts or use of deceptive tactics in the application for registration to practice acupuncture including, but not limited to:

- a. Making false or misleading statements in obtaining or seeking to obtain registration;
- b. Failing to disclose by deliberate omission or concealment any information the board deems relevant to the safe and healthful practice of acupuncture pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 147 and 148E;
- c. Misrepresenting any fact or deed to meet the application or eligibility requirements established by this rule; or
- d. Filing or attempting to file a false, forged or altered diploma, certificate, affidavit, translated or other official or certified document, including the application form, attesting to the applicant's eligibility for registration to practice acupuncture in Iowa.

14.13(2) *Professional incompetence.* Professional incompetence includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Substantial lack of knowledge or ability to discharge professional obligations within the scope of the acupuncturist's practice;
- b. Substantial deviation by the registrant from the standards of learning or skill ordinarily possessed and applied by other acupuncturists when acting in the same or similar circumstances;
- c. Failure by an acupuncturist to exercise in a substantial respect the degree of care which is ordinarily exercised by the average acupuncturist when acting in the same or similar circumstances;
- d. Willful or repeated departure from or the failure to conform to the minimal standard of acceptable and prevailing practice of acupuncture; or
- e. Failure to fulfill the responsibilities and obligations to the patient as specified in 14.10(4).

14.13(3) *Fraud in the practice of acupuncture.* Fraud in the practice of acupuncture includes, but is not limited to, any misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representation in the practice of acupuncture, made orally or in writing, that is contrary to the acupuncturist's legal or equitable duty, trust or confidence and is deemed by the board to be contrary to good conscience, prejudicial to the public welfare, and potentially injurious to another. Proof of actual injury need not be established.

14.13(4) *Unethical conduct.* Unethical conduct in the practice of acupuncture includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Failing to provide patients with the information required in Iowa Code section 148E.4 or providing false information to patients;
- b. Accepting remuneration for referral of patients to other health care professionals;
- c. Offering or providing remuneration for the referral of patients, excluding paid advertisements or marketing services;
- d. Engaging in sexual activity or genital contact with a patient while acting or purporting to act within the scope of the acupuncture practice, whether or not the patient consented to the sexual activity or genital contact;
- e. Disclosing confidential information about a patient without proper authorization; or
- f. Abrogating the boundaries of acceptable conduct in the practice of acupuncture established by the profession that the board deems appropriate for ensuring that acupuncturists provide Iowans with safe and healthful care.

14.13(5) *Practice harmful to the public.* Practice harmful or detrimental to the public in the practice of acupuncture includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Failing to possess and exercise the degree of skill, learning and care expected of a reasonable, prudent acupuncturist acting in the same or similar circumstances;
- b. Practicing acupuncture without reasonable skill and safety as the result of a mental or physical impairment, chemical abuse or chemical dependency;
- c. Prescribing, dispensing or administering any controlled substance or prescription medication for human use; or
- d. Performing any treatment or healing procedure not authorized in Iowa Code section 148E.1 or subrule 14.10(4).

14.13(6) *Habitual intoxication or addiction.* Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs includes, but is not limited to, the inability to practice acupuncture with reasonable skill and safety as a result of the excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals or other substances on a continuing basis, or the excessive use of the same in a way which may impair the ability to practice acupuncture with reasonable skill and safety.

14.13(7) *Felony conviction.* A felony conviction related to the practice of acupuncture or that affects the ability to practice the profession includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Any conviction for any public offense directly related to or associated with the practice of acupuncture that is classified as a felony under the statutes of any jurisdiction of the United States, the United States government, or another nation or its political subdivisions; or
- b. Any conviction for a public offense affecting the ability to practice acupuncture that is classified as a felony under the statutes of any jurisdiction of the United States, the United States government, or another nation or its political subdivisions and that involves moral turpitude, civility, honesty, or morals.

A copy of the record of conviction or plea of guilty or nolo contendere shall be conclusive evidence of the felony conviction.

14.13(8) *Misrepresentation of scope of practice by registrants.* Misrepresentation of a registrant's scope of practice includes, but is not limited to, misleading, deceptive or untrue representations about competency, education, training or skill as a registered acupuncturist or the ability to perform services not authorized under the scope of this rule or subrule 14.10(4).

14.13(9) *False advertising.* False advertising is the use of fraudulent, deceptive or improbable statements in information provided to the public. False advertising includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Unsubstantiated claims about the registrant's skills or abilities, the healing properties of acupuncture or specific techniques or treatments therein;
- b. Presenting words, phrases, or figures which are misleading or likely to be misunderstood by the average person; or
- c. Claiming extraordinary skills that are not recognized by the acupuncture profession.

14.13(10) *General grounds.* The board may also take disciplinary action against an acupuncturist for any of the following reasons:

- a. Failure to comply with the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 148E or the applicable provisions of Iowa Code chapter 147, or the failure of an acupuncturist to comply with rules adopted by the board pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 148E;
- b. Failure to notify the board of any adverse judgment or settlement of a malpractice claim or action within 30 days of the date of the judgment or settlement;
- c. Failure to report to the board any acts or omissions of another acupuncturist authorized to practice in Iowa that would constitute grounds for discipline under 14.13(3) within 30 days of the date the acupuncturist initially became aware of the information;
- d. Failure to comply with a subpoena issued by the board;
- e. Knowingly submitting a false report of continuing education or failing to submit a required continuing education report;
- f. Failure to adhere to the disciplinary sanctions imposed upon the acupuncturist by the board; or
- g. Violating any of the grounds for revocation or suspension of registration listed in Iowa Code chapter 147 or 148E.

653—14.14(272C) Procedure for peer review. Rules 653—12.5(272C) to 12.8(272C) shall apply to peer review procedures in matters related to registered acupuncturists.

653—14.15(272C) Reporting duties and investigation of reports. Rules 653—12.9(272C) to 12.12(272C) shall apply to certain reporting responsibilities of registered acupuncturists and the investigation of malpractice cases involving registered acupuncturists.

653—14.16(272C) Immunities and privileged communications. Rules 653—12.13(272C) and 12.14(272C) shall apply to matters relating to registered acupuncturists.

653—14.17(272C) Confidentiality of investigative files. Rule 653—12.15(272C) shall apply to investigative files relating to registered acupuncturists.

Rules 14.1(148E) to 14.17(272C) are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 147.55, 148E.6, 272C.3, 272C.4, 272C.6, 272C.8 and 272C.9.

653—14.18 to 14.29 Reserved.

653—14.30(17A,147,148E,272C) Disciplinary procedures. Rule 653—12.50(17A,147,148, 272C), subrules 12.50(1) to 12.50(37), shall apply to disciplinary actions against registered acupuncturists.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.10 to 17A.20, 147.55, 148E.6, and 272C.5.

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